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**ELECTION DAY PROGRAM IN PLACE AT UNITED STATES
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR NOVEMBER 2004 ELECTIONS**
Program to Address Election Fraud and Voting Rights Abuses

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that his office, in conjunction with the Justice Department's nationwide Election Day Program, will vigorously address complaints of election fraud and voting rights abuses relating to the upcoming November 2, 2004 general elections. Mr. Scott designated two Assistant United States Attorneys, Debora Luther and Stanley Boone, as the lead attorneys in the effort.

Two years ago, in October of 2002, Attorney General Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goals of this Initiative are to increase the Department's ability to deter election fraud and discrimination at the polls and to prosecute these offenses whenever and wherever they occur - to make voting easier and cheating harder. Both goals are equally important. It is imperative that in pursuing voter integrity, ballot access is not in any way diminished or harmed. The Department's long-standing Election Day Program furthers the goals of the Initiative. The Program also is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the election process by providing local points of contact within the Department where the public can report possible election fraud and voting rights violations while the polls are open on election day. The franchise is the cornerstone of American democracy. We all must ensure that those who are entitled to the franchise exercise it, while those who seek to corrupt it are brought to justice.

In order to respond to complaints of election fraud, discrimination, and other voting rights abuses on November 2, 2004, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, United States Attorney Scott stated that Assistant United States Attorneys/DEOs Luther and Boone will be on duty in this District while the polls are open. They can be reached by the public at the following telephone numbers: 916/554-2816 (Luther) and 559/498-7530 (Boone).

The FBI will also have Special Agents available in each field office and resident agency in this District to receive allegations of election fraud and other election abuses. The FBI can be reached by the public at 916/481-9110.

In addition, complaints about discrimination or about ballot access problems, including

access to the polling place for voters with or without disabilities, can be made directly to the Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington at 1-800-253-3931 or 202-307-2767.

United States Attorney McGregor Scott said, "Election fraud and voting rights abuses dilute the worth of votes honestly cast. They also corrupt the essence of our representative form of government. As crimes against both the individual and the government, they will be dealt with promptly and aggressively. Anyone who has information suggesting electoral corruption or voting rights abuses should make that information available immediately to my Office, the FBI, or the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division."

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